



PLATFORM FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON UNDOCUMENTED MIGRANTS

PICUM Newsletter February 2009

Finalized on 23 February 2009

This newsletter focuses on news items and policy developments concerning the basic social rights of undocumented migrants in Europe. It is currently available in Word format and on the PICUM website (www.picum.org) in the following languages: English, German, Dutch, Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. You are invited to distribute this newsletter widely.

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1. Death at the Border

- According to the Spanish authorities, the official number of migrants who died in their attempt to reach the Canary Islands in 2008 is 45. However, this figure only includes the number of bodies that were actually recovered. Source: Migration News Sheet, January 2009, p. 7
- During 2008, more than 1,500 deaths occurred at the borders of the European Union. This has been a result of a strict border protection regime which has driven migrants seeking entry to the EU to take longer and more dangerous routes to Europe. This trend shows a dangerous record in relation to human rights at the borders of the EU, prompting approximately 30,000 citizens to

support a petition to ask the Parliament of the European Union (who controls the budget of FRONTEX) to use its power to influence to control the FRONTEX agency. For more information see: infoapdha 20 January 2008, available at www.apdha.org.

- A boat carrying a total of 35 prospective undocumented migrants capsized off the coast of Tunisia overnight on 18-19 January. Five of the migrants swam to the shore of the resort city of La Marsa, and the remaining thirty are still missing. No bodies have been recovered yet. Source: http://qc.news.yahoo.com/s/capress/090119/monde/20090119_tunisie_migration_naufra_2

2. News from UN + EU Member States + Switzerland + U.S.A.

UN

- On 9 January 2009 Ron Redmond, a spokesman for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) stated that the limited opportunities available for those wishing to enter the EU by regular means meant that thousands of people threatened by persecution and serious human rights violations in their home countries had no choice but to take the dangerous sea route. Source: <http://euobserver.com/22/27383>.

Belgium

- A decision by the Committee for Victims' Help to not refund the family of Oulematou Niangadou, an undocumented woman from Mali who was murdered in a racially motivated attack in 2006, has raised considerable concern. The Belgian Minister of Justice Stefaan De Clerck (CD&V) has suggested to change the law on the compensation fund for victims of violence. At the time of her death, Oulematou worked as babysitter in Antwerp but did not hold a residence permit. While Belgian Law provides for compensation to the victims of a crime, the Committee decided that her family was not entitled to receive any compensation as she was undocumented. Under the new proposal, undocumented migrants would also be entitled to compensation from the Fund. Source: <http://www.infomonde.be/im/fr/3033/Belgique/article/detail/647066/2009/01/28/Les-sans-papiers-pourront-benefecier-du-fonds-d-aide-aux-victimes.dhtml>
- From 7 to 22 January 2009, undocumented migrants from the Union de Défense des Personnes sans Papiers (Defense Union for Undocumented Peoples - UDEP) occupied the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) and the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), and marched to governmental buildings across Brussels, demanding that government officials comply with their March 2008 agreement to institute a regularization plan for undocumented migrants. The protesters have organized marches, rallies and sit-ins since the end of October to call for governmental response to the agreement, the terms of which have not yet been clarified. Source: <http://sanspapiers.skynetblogs.be/>

France

- The Minister for regional cooperation of Burkina Faso, Ms. Minata Samaté and the French Minister for Immigration, Mr Brice Hortefeux signed an agreement on migration under which migrants from Burkina Faso residing irregularly in France would be regularised on condition that they hold a regular contract of employment. Furthermore, the agreement set an entry permit on standard skills which would allow 500 people per year from Burkina to enter France to find work. The agreement stated that Burkinabe students could apply for a one year French labour permit. However, under French labour law employers are obliged to fire migrant employees if they are aware they are residing irregularly. Therefore, a migrant may only receive a regular labour contract if they first

receive a legal permit of stay in France. French law also states that undocumented migrants may apply for a special temporary permit for work, called *Autorisation Provisoire de Travail* (APT), if the employer would support their application form to obtain the permit to a regular stay.

Source : http://www.rfi.fr/actufr/articles/109/article_77167.asp

- For the fourth time in two years, Mali has refused to sign an agreement with France on the “concerted management” of migratory flows. France has been pushing African governments to sign such agreements, which are aimed at combating irregular migration. On 8 January 2009, French officials were in Bamako to negotiate the signing of the agreement, which had so far been signed by seven other African countries. Malian and French civil society organizations strongly protested the proposed agreement, which they alleged would require Malian authorities to “play the role of security guard for Fortress Europe”, and facilitate the deportation of Malians and other Africans from France to help the country reach its goal of 30,000 deportations in 2009. They also protested the non-transparency of the negotiations, and that development aid was being conditioned to acceptance of the agreement.

Source: MRI E-Bulletin Jan 2009, www.migrantwatch.org

- The French Minister of Immigration and National Identity Brice Hortefeux has expressed satisfaction regarding the numbers of migrants expelled. 29,796 undocumented migrants left France in 2008 by voluntary return or by expulsion. Since the beginning of Sarkozy's Government there have been 45,000 departures in all. M. Hortefeux said that it was the first time that the number of undocumented migrants began to decrease in France.

Sources: http://www.rfi.fr/actufr/articles/109/article_77284.asp, =

- Following the murder of an Afghan migrant in a camp close to the ferry port in Calais, nicknamed 'The Jungle', Mr. Etienne Pinte, a former minister and veteran member of President Nicolas Sarkozy's governing UMP party, has condemned Britain's “inhumane and illegal” immigration policies, blaming them for causing “utter misery” across the Channel. Mr. Pinte has expressed concern about the charter flights organized by the British Government to deport immigrants to war-torn countries like Afghanistan and urged British authorities to find a dignified and humane solution to a problem which solely concerns it. Source:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/france/4208674/French-condemn-Britains-inhumane-immigration-policy.html>

- Confédération générale du Travail (CGT) has welcomed the guidelines set up within the Minister of Immigration to allow the regularisation of undocumented workers as result of the migrants' demonstrations and strikes held over the latest nine months. The CGT called upon prefect's offices to implement these guidelines without any delay for all migrant workers who fulfill the conditions established by the Minister of Immigration. Source:

<http://www.millebords.org/spip.php?article10026> ■

- Eric Besson stated his first day as French Immigration Minister, on 16 January, was to be ‘symbolic’ of the tasks he intends to undertake: a first meeting with representatives of the Office for the repression of irregular migration and of employment of undocumented migrants (Ocriest), a visit to the headquarters of the Elele association, which undertakes integration projects with Turkish immigrants, and to finish, a meeting with the inter-ministerial committee against racism and anti-Semitism at Matignon. At Ocriest, the Minister said he was determined to continue to fight irregular migration. Source: ENAR Weekly mail 23 January 2009, available online at <http://www.enar-eu.org>

Greece

- Following a blaze which destroyed a migrants' camp near Petras on 21 January 2009, 450 detained migrants were left without a shelter. MSF's medical centre which offered medical care and psychological support to undocumented migrants in the camp was destroyed along with 75 shacks. Giorgos Karagiannis, MSF head of mission of the project for undocumented migrants in Greece, has said that the devastating fire has made this population even more vulnerable. Source: http://www.ekathimerini.com/4dcgi/ w_articles_politics_2_23/01/2009_104049

Italy

- Six senators of The Lega Nord Party have presented two amendments in the framework of the Security Package (Italian decree of law n.733 under discussion in the Italian Senate) which would require health care professionals in Italy to report undocumented migrants if they come into contact with them in their services. SIMM (Italian Society for Migrants' Health/ Società italiana di Medicina delle Migrazioni) has stressed that the "duty to denounce" of health care authorities would create an insurmountable access barrier, a kind of "clandestine health behaviour" which may be extremely dangerous because it could bring social and health exclusion, as well as real obstacles to health care provision for undocumented migrants. SIMM, MSF (Medici senza Frontiere), ASGI (Associazione Studi Giuridici sull'Immigrazione) and the OISG (Osservatorio italiano sulla salute globale) have started the campaign "Forbidden to denounce. We are doctors and nurses, not spies!" (Divieto di segnalazione. Siamo medici ed infermieri, non siamo spie!). For more information about the campaign, see: <http://www.divietoedisegnalazione.medicisenzafrontiere.it> and <http://www.simmweb.it/index.php?id=358>
- The 14 January Italian Parliament approved article 19 of the project of law under which irregular entry and irregular stay in national territory became a crime which can be punished by a sanction between €5,000 to €10,000 and a sentence of expulsion. The Italian Home Office Minister has suggested that undocumented migrants would pay a fee to receive a permit of regular stay. Mr. Maroni has defended this proposal by saying that something similar existed in other European countries, as Germany, England and the Netherlands. Migrants Foundation (belonging to CEI-Vatican) criticized the Home Office's proposal and the head of their migration policy section Gianromano Gnesotto has assessed the fee as a step back saying it was unacceptable because it would damage those suffering the worst living and social conditions. The Council of Europe's Human Rights Commissioner Thomas Hammarberg said he hopes that the centre-right government will remove such "discriminatory" measures from the bill before it becomes law. Source: <http://www.repubblica.it/2008/12/sezioni/cronaca/immigrati-2/cei-contro-tassa/cei-contro-tassa.html>
- MSF, Médecins Sans Frontières, has denounced the living conditions of many African seasonal workers in the Calabria Region of Italy. MSF delegates have counted about 1,500 migrants working as fruit pickers living in the area of the Piana di Gioia Tauro without the most fundamental social rights. Mr Antonio Virgilio, head of MSF Calabria, reported that these people lived in self-made housing in disused factories, without electricity and running water, often surrounded by rubbish that attracted rats. Some of migrants became sick after their arrival and MSF warned that health risks would increase if the Regional authority failed to carry out emergency measures such as building toilets, providing for drinkable water and health care assistance. Sources: January 2009 Migration News Sheet and http://www.medicisenzafrontiere.it/msfinforma/comunicati_stampa.asp?id=1908
- Hundreds of undocumented migrants broke out of a detention centre on the Italian island of Lampedusa on 23 January and staged a protest alongside many citizens of Lampedusa against the conditions at the detention centre. Built to hold 850 migrants, it is currently holding more than 1,800,

and the government have decided to open a new Centre for Identification and Expulsion (CEI) at a disused NATO military base on the island. Source: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/7848786.stm>

- On the night between the 1 and 2 February 2009, a fire broke out in the ex-naval base Loran, in Lampedusa. One hundred undocumented migrants, most of whom were women, had been sheltering there because of the overcrowding within the main detention centre. The blaze was probably caused by a gas leak. Nobody was seriously injured but the local authorities have announced that the Loran base should not hold migrants at present as it does not have a housing permit. Source: http://www.ansa.it/opencms/export/site/visualizza_fdg.html_876081569.html

Malta

- The UNCHR local delegate in Malta, Mr. Neil Falzon, has expressed concern about the inhumane conditions of undocumented migrants held on the island of Malta. Mr Falzon noted that by not allowing migrants to have access to employment, work, education and housing there would be a risk of increased human rights violations and of the development of a xenophobic behaviour against migrants. Source: <http://www.neurope.eu/articles/91694.php>

Netherlands

- The Netherlands have signed an agreement making it the first country to use UNHCR's internet-based Refworld database as its main information tool in determining asylum claims. The Refworld database, which is updated on a daily basis, contains a collection of reports relating to the situations in countries of origin, policy documents and positions, and documents relating to international and national legal frameworks. Peter Veld, general director of the Dutch Immigration and Naturalization Service, who signed the agreement for the Netherlands, stated that the main considerations for the cooperation were easy access, good quality of the information available and cost efficiency. UNHCR confirmed that the final agreement also includes financial support for Refworld for the next three years. Refworld can be accessed on-line at www.refworld.org
- Migrant domestic workers in the Netherlands are now being protected by the labour union FNV Bondgenoten and will fall under the categorisation of cleaning workers. Fighting for better labour conditions and easy access to health care, the organiser of this group of migrant domestic workers is Katrien Depuydt at the FNV union: k.depuydt@bg.fnv.nl.
- Following the new Dutch health care system for undocumented migrants (see PICUM newsletters July and November 2008 and January 2009) the NGOs Lampion and the Doctors van der Wereld opened a registration point (*Meldpunt Incidenten van toegangsproblemen gezondheidszorg Illegalen*) where incidents concerning access to health care can be reported. Forms can be downloaded from www.lampion.info or www.doktersvandewereld.org

Poland

- The Polish Border Guard have recently completed training to carry out checks seeking to verify the legality of immigrant employment. At present, such checks are also carried out in Poland by the National Labour Inspectorate (*Państwowa Inspekcja Pracy* - PIP) and the Customs Service (*Służba Celna*), which is due to soon abandon performing this duty given the planned reform of the Polish Customs Service. The newly trained Border Guard now have the right to ask employers to present employment contracts for their foreign employees as well as to verify the immigrant workers' places of work to check whether their jobs match their work permits. In the case of discrepancies, court

procedures will be followed. The Act of 24 November 2008, which constitutes an amendment of the Aliens Act (Journal of Laws (*Dziennik Ustaw*), 2008, No 216, item 1367) foresees fines for both the employer and the undocumented migrant worker in the event of irregularities. When it comes to undocumented migrant workers, more severe measures, such as deportation or the obligation to leave the Polish territory within seven days, may be enforced. Foreigners running businesses, which are not in keeping with Polish regulations, will be subject to administrative sanctions, while the lack of an adequate visa permitting to start a business will lead to deportation.

Source: http://praca.gazetaprawna.pl/artykuly/106223,straz_graniczna_skontroluje_zatrudnienie_cu_dzoziemcow.html.

Spain

- The Spanish government has approved a new draft Alien Bill which includes many of the provisions of EU Directives on 19 December 2008. One of these provisions is the statutory limit to detain foreigners without a residence permit. According to this draft bill, the limit is to be increased from 40 to 60 days, which is well below the maximum stipulated by the EU Return Directive. Source: Migration News Sheet, January 2009, p.4
- According to Spanish authorities the number of “boat” migrants intercepted off the coast of the Canary Islands fell during the year 2008. The number of interceptions during that year was 28% lower than that of 2007 and less than a third of the number in 2006. According to a statement made on 12 December 2008 by the junior Minister of Immigration this dramatic decrease is attributed to the agreements signed with Morocco, Senegal, Mauritania and Gambia. Source: Migration News Sheet, January 2009, p. 7 & 28.
- The Spanish Constitutional Court, in a ruling on the 22 of December 2008, has recognised the right of an undocumented minor (of Moroccan origin) to contest his repatriation. This ruling has come to guarantee the effective judicial protection of foreign minors and allowed them to appeal any decisions taken by the administration (acting on their behalf in the role of “guardian”) which were made contrary to their interests and consent. Source: infoapdha 20 January 2008, available at www.apdha.org.

Switzerland

- In Zurich, 150 undocumented migrants squatted in several churches until 7 January to claim for regularisation. The trade union SIT (Syndicat interprofessionnel des travailleurs) assessed that there were 120,000 undocumented migrants in Switzerland, with a monthly salary on average of 1,500/2,000 francs. Mr. Felipe Polania as spokesman of the group of squatters, reported the racist and xenophobic behaviour against undocumented migrants in the German speaking region of Switzerland. He has expressed concern that this behaviour would stand in the way of setting up the organisation of undocumented migrants’ movements.
Source: <http://www.swissinfo.ch/fre/swissinfo.html?siteSect=105&sid=10168899&ty=st>

Sweden

- Recently in Stockholm a drop-in centre for undocumented migrants was opened as the result of a joint initiative of the two main trade unions in Sweden (TCO and LO) and the NGO Papperslösa Stockholm that represents undocumented migrants. The centre aims to prevent the ill-treatment of undocumented workers in the Swedish labour market. At the centre, many services are offered, such as legal and practical advice to workers.

<http://www.lo.se/home/lo/home.nsf/unidView/9A7E32111685E39BC12574C8002E49D7>,
<http://unionrenewal.blogspot.com/2008/10/swedish-unions-fight-exploitation-of.html>

UK

- The UK Border Agency unveiled the new Code of Practice for Keeping Children Safe from harm on 6 January 2009. However, sources contend that there are serious issues with the code as it does not change any of the immigration procedures for children. The new code does not set a time limit or statutory ban on holding undocumented children. Sources say that the code allows for the detention of children beyond 28 days (in spite of recommending 2-3 day limits).
<http://www.irr.org.uk/2009/january/bw000006.html>.

United States

- During the month of December 2008, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Michael Chertoff, declined the request of the president of Haiti to allow tens of thousands of undocumented Haitians to remain in the United States pending his country's recovery from hurricanes. In his letter to President Préval, Mr. Chertoff said that after analysing the case he has come to the conclusion that neither the State of Haiti nor its nationals living in an irregular status in the US qualify for the protection of the status of temporary refugees.
http://haitiimpact.com/site/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2138&Itemid=3
- According to a report by the Migration Policy Institute, there is growing evidence that a measurable slowdown in the flow of immigration into the United States (both regular and irregular) is taking place. The report examines the effects of the economic crises and predicts the effects it may have on immigration flows. It argues that for the most part regular permanent immigration flows are the least responsive to economic pressures, while irregular ones tend to be the most. However, according to the report, returning migration seems to be more closely correlated with economic, political and social developments in the country of origin than with economic conditions in the US.
http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/lmi_recessionJan09.pdf.
- The Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection, Janusz Kochanowski met with representatives of the American Embassy in Warsaw and the members of the US Department of Homeland Security to discuss the ill treatment of Polish undocumented migrants at the hands of the American immigration services. Thirteen elderly Polish women detained at Newark Airport in November in 2008 are said to have been kept handcuffed and kept in arrest until they were deported. The Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection appealed that such extreme measures be used only in the case of dangerous individuals and that the Polish Consulate be informed about any Polish citizen being kept in arrest for more than three hours. (Source: „RPO rozmawiał z Amerykanami o złym traktowaniu polskich imigrantów” / “The Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection in talks with Americans about the ill treatment of Polish immigrants”).
http://wiadomosci.gazeta.pl/Wiadomosci/1,81048,6196637,RPO_rozmawial_z_Amerykanami_o_zlym_traktowaniu_polskich.html.)

3. European Policy Developments

General

- The Management Board of the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA) has recently approved the Agency's Annual Work Programme for 2009. One of the main focuses of the Agency in 2009 will be

on protecting, respecting and promoting the rights of irregular immigrants in voluntary and involuntary return procedures. In this respect, FRA will carry out a comparative legal research in order to identify weaknesses and develop a compendium of best practices providing a useful guidance to EU Member States for adopting the highest standards of protection of fundamental rights. The second major priority of the Agency will be to analyze the situation of irregular immigrants in the EU. The Agency will prepare a comprehensive comparative study of the fundamental rights situation of irregular immigrants focusing on the areas of health, education, housing and employment. The director of FRA, Morten Kjaerum, added that the purpose of this project is to support the Community and its Member States in their efforts to develop coherent and effective policies to protect and promote the fundamental rights of irregular immigrants, in particular in relation to irregular migrant women and children. Source:

http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_16_January_2009.pdf

Council of the European Union

- The first part of an Informal Meeting of Ministers of Justice and Home Affairs dedicated to home affairs took place in Prague on 15 January 2009. The Ministers addressed the utilization of modern technologies in the area of border protection, and control of migration and asylum policy. In this discussion the Ministers expressed their opinions on the introduction of biometric elements to travel documents, with respect to external border crossing. Within this discussion, the Ministers also addressed the topic of undocumented migration and agreed that a truly complex migration policy demands maximum utilization of all available information and its consideration while applying practical measures that focus not only on the fight with the phenomenon of irregular migration. Source: <http://www.statewatch.org/news/2009/jan/eu-jha-informal-1st-day-prel.pdf>

- On the occasion of the meeting held in Rome on 13 January, the Quadro Group, formed by the Home Affairs Ministers of Malta, Cyprus, Greece, and Italy, signed a declaration on irregular immigration and asylum, which would be sent to the Czech Presidency, with a view to put into practice the principle of solidarity and fair burden-sharing. The group stressed that the countries of origin should be briefed on the dangers resulting from irregular migration. Moreover, it has been decided that agreements should be signed on the re-admission of migrants, who have entered irregularly and the re-admission of agreements already signed (for example with Turkey) be implemented. Guarantees for the secure return of migrants, who remain in the EU without any legalising documents, are premised with the hammering out of a complete and effective institutional framework. The Czech Republic Presidency has put the Quadro resolution in the agenda. Sources: http://www.interno.it/mininterno/export/sites/default/it/sezioni/sala_stampa/notizie/2100_50_0_ministro/0553_2009_01_15_praga.htm
<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090113/local/quadro-group-report-stresses-solidarity-and-burden-sharing>
<http://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20090113/local/migration-italian-minister-waters-down-repatriation-pledge>
<http://news.ert.gr/en/greece/society/17704-synergasia-gia-ti-metanasteysi.htm>

European Parliament

- Members of the EP Civil Liberties Committee adopted a compromise reached with the Council on the Directive providing for minimum standards on sanctions against employers of irregularly staying third-country nationals. This Commission's draft legislation is supposed to complement other measures, such as the "return directive" and the "blue card" directive, the overall aim being to combat undocumented immigration more firmly while encouraging legal immigration. The "sanctions directive" would introduce minimum penalties at European level against employers of

undocumented migrants by laying down criminal law penalties against employers for repeat offences, where a large number of people in an irregular situation are employed, where the working conditions are exploitative, where the employee is a victim of human trafficking and this is known to the employer, or if the employee is a minor. MEPs successfully argued that Member States should establish lower financial penalties for people using clandestine immigrants as domestic staff, provided the working conditions were not exploitative. Parliament also wants Member States to set up mechanisms to enable undocumented immigrants to lodge complaints. Irregular immigrants will, if they cooperate with the legal action against their employer, be able to get a temporary residence permit. A list of employers who have infringed the directive may be made public – another successful demand by MEPs. The Member States are asked to conduct effective inspections sufficiently frequently to check on the employment of non-EU nationals in an irregular situation. They must also require employers to check that their non-EU employees have a valid residence permit and inform a national authority of any new recruitment of non-EU nationals. Source: http://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/expert/infopress_page/018-46697-019-01-04-902-20090120IPR46696-19-01-2009-2009-false/default_en.htm

- The European Parliament Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs (LIBE) on 21 January adopted the report on the implementation in the European Union of Directive 2003/9/EC, laying down minimum standards for the reception of asylum seekers and refugees following visits by the Committee on Civil Liberties 2005-2008' drawn up by French MEP, Martine Roure. The report is based on the findings of a delegation of the LIBE Committee that has visited reception and detention centers in Italy (Lampedusa), Spain (Ceuta and Melilla, Canary Islands), France, Malta, Greece, Belgium, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Poland, Denmark and Cyprus. The report calls on Member States to show more solidarity with those Member States most affected by the challenges of immigration. The report calls for priority to be given to reception of immigrants in open centers. Regarding detention, the report stresses that a person should not be held in detention for the sole reason he/she is seeking international protection and calls on Member States to prohibit the detention of minors in principle and provide special assistance to vulnerable migrants. Finally, the report calls on Member States to apply the Reception Directive to those under the Dublin system. This report is to be voted on 5 February during the plenary session in Strasbourg. Source: http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_30_January_2009.pdf
- The European United Left/ Nordic Green Left, the ESP and Les Verts/ Alliance Libre Européenne organised on 14 January in European Parliament in Strasbourg a hearing on "Right of access inside detention centres for migrants in Europe". The President of MIGREUROPE Claire Rodier presented the European campaign on Right of access inside detention centres for migrants in Europe. Guest speakers who have attended the hearing were Mauricio VALIENTE (CEAR), from Spain, Isabelle CAILLOL (HRA/RLAP), from Turkey, Sophie BAYLAC (Cimade), from France, Arnaud PERROUTY (LDH), from Belgium and Alessandra CAPPODANO (ARCI), from Italy. Source: <http://www.guengl.eu/showPage.jsp?ID=7015&PR=0>

European Commission

- ECRE, the European Council on Refugees and Exiles, have issued an Information Note regarding the Directive of the European Parliament and the Council (2008/115/EC) on common standards and procedures in Member States for returning 'illegally' staying third country nationals outlining its view on the Directive and providing detailed analysis of some of its key provisions. In particular, ECRE emphasises its serious concerns about the provision of an extremely short period for a person to prepare to return, ranging between 7 and 30 days; the obligation to include entry bans as long as 5 years in certain return decisions; and the possibility to detain third country nationals, including

families, unaccompanied children as well as other vulnerable persons, for up to 18 months for reasons beyond their control. ECRE urges Member States to abide to their commitment to refrain from using the Directive as a pretext to justify the adoption of harsher return measures.

Source: http://www.ecre.org/resources/Policy_papers/1296

- The Olive Group (which is made up of the foreign ministers of Italy, France, Spain, Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Slovenia, Portugal, and Malta) came together in Taormina, Sicily on 16 December 2008 for a two-day meeting. During the meeting the ministers called attention to the migration pressure they are facing due to their geographical location and urged partners from northern EU Member states to show greater solidarity in facing this issue. (Migration News Sheet, January 2009, p.5)

Council of Europe

- On 13 January 2009, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights, Thomas Hammarberg, started a three-day visit to Rome to assess the Italian policies on immigration, Roma and counter-terrorism. The visit is a follow-up to the Memorandum published by the Commissioner in July 2008 in which he, inter alia, criticized the practice of forcibly returning migrants to certain countries with proven records of torture. He furthermore recommended stronger anti-discrimination action and protection of the rights of migrants, Roma and Sinti, and the strict abidance of counter-terrorism measures by the Council of Europe standards. A report with the findings of the visit is expected to be published in the spring of 2009. Source: http://www.ecre.org/files/ECRE_Weekly_Bulletin_16_January_2009.pdf

4. Undocumented Children

- On 22-23 January 2009, PICUM held a conference to launch its new report entitled ***Undocumented Children in Europe: Invisible Victims of Immigration Restrictions***. This report examines the particular vulnerability of undocumented children and analyzes their specific needs and problems encountered in various European countries, with a special focus on the discrimination these children might face in accessing education, health care and housing. PICUM was pleased that more than 120 participants from more than 20 countries attended the conference and identified some common challenges and proposed solutions in working with undocumented children. The project report is available in printed and PDF versions in English as well as French and Spanish. Contact: administration@picum.org.
- PICUM has been selected to be a permanent NGO member of the EU Forum on Children's Rights. The newly established forum is a permanent group for the promotion of children's rights and will meet in plenary at least twice a year. The Forum was launched following the adoption by the European Commission on 4 July 2006 of the Communication entitled "Towards an EU strategy on the Rights of the Child". The role of the Forum is to advise and assist the Commission and other European Institutions, in particular as regards mainstreaming of children's rights, and exchange information and good practice. PICUM's permanent seat on this forum marks an important step in our endeavor to mainstream issues concerning the protection of undocumented children into an EU mechanism on the broader issue of children's rights. http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/fsj/children/forum/fsj_children_forum_en.htm
- Like all secondary school students in the Netherlands, those who are undocumented also have the right to a compensation of €316 for schoolbooks for the academic year 2008-2009. The

compensation does not depend on the legal status of the child. More information on www.svb.nl , and the website of the IB-Groep, www.ib-groep.nl or www.gratisschoolboeken.nl

- On 16-17 January RESF opened the national French campaign « Jeunesse sans papiers, jeunesse volée, ça suffit ! La loi doit changer ! » (Childhood without documents, childhood stolen, it's enough! Laws must be changed !). Undocumented young migrants go to school as every young people, but when they would be 18 years old, they would be facing to the risk to be expelled. Young people delegations coming from several French cities as Lyon, Marseille and Paris met first time in Orleans to discuss on undocumented young migrants' problems.
Source: <http://www.educationsansfrontieres.org/spip.php?article17235>
- Save the Children's 'Monitoring Report – Reception and Protection of Children's Rights in the Lampedusa Centre' informs that in 2008, 2,646 children, mostly unaccompanied minors but also those with their families, passed through the Italian island's reception centre where they were often held in critical and inadequate conditions. In January 2009, an additional 81 children and 1,035 adults arrived. The report is based on Save the Children's activities within the island's migrant reception centre as part of the Praesidium project since May 2008. Despite institutional efforts over past months to manage migration flows, Save the Children still finds several critical issues regarding the reception and protection of minors in the reception centre on Lampedusa (Centro di Soccorso e Prima Accoglienza – CSPA). Minors are detained for up to 37 days before being transferred to detention centres in Sicily, the centre's lack of beds means that some children have to sleep on mattresses on the floor, the report also highlights the inadequate hygiene conditions and inadequate procedures for age assessment existing in the centre.
Source: <http://www.savethechildren.net/alliance/media/newsdesk/2009-01-26a.html>
- The UK network NRPF – No Recourse to Public Funds, has developed practice guidelines for assessing and supporting children and families with unable to access public funds. The guidance outlines the process of assessing eligibility for support and the assessment of need for families with NRPF within the current legal context. It considers issues that need to be taken into consideration in completing human rights assessments and child in need assessments on families with NRPF, including families in an undocumented status. <http://tinyurl.com/3l86st>

5. Undocumented Women

- PICUM has now started a three-year strategy to gender-sensitize its rights based approach. Seeking to empower women as active agents in the engagement and enforcement of their human rights, PICUM will increase awareness of the humanitarian concerns surrounding undocumented women's unprotected status and encourage accountability for violations and abuses against them. PICUM recognises that guaranteeing basic entitlements for undocumented women in Europe, such as access to education, health, housing and labour rights, is a key element in breaking the cycles of abuse, fear, poverty and violence against them. A section on undocumented women in PICUM's monthly newsletter marks an important first step of this strategy and provides an opportunity to report on recent issues of concern, trace policy developments and highlight networking opportunities arising from new projects and partnerships across Europe. PICUM invites all recipients of its newsletter to please send materials for inclusion in this new section and furthermore, to encourage subscription among individuals and organisations with specific interest in gender and migration. For more information on this initiative including opportunities for grant-makers to get involved, please contact eve.geddie@picum.org

- General Recommendation 26 on Women Migrant Workers was adopted by the 42nd Session of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This marks a powerful affirmation that all categories of migrant women, including those who are undocumented, must be protected from all forms of discrimination under CEDAW. Noting the particular vulnerability of undocumented female workers to exploitation and abuse because of their limited access to basic labour rights and fear deportation, the Committee stressed State Parties obligation to protect the basic human rights of undocumented migrant women. The recommendation highlights the grave abuses and acts of discrimination that female migrants face and clarifies the standards set out in the Convention that are relevant to these abuses. While using CEDAW to further women migrant's rights and advance equality in all spheres, the Committee also encourages State Parties to ratify other international instruments which protect the human rights of undocumented migrant women, in particular the International Convention on the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/cedaw/docs/GR_26_on_women_migrant_workers_en.pdf
- A network of European migrant women has been established by the European Women's Lobby under their 'Equal Rights, Equal Voices' project. Since 2006, the European Women's Lobby has run a project in partnership with migrant women's organisations across Europe. This project builds on three main observations: that migrant women have specific needs and are facing specific obstacles in the integration process, migrant women play a central role in the integration process and their voices are barely heard and reflected in the integration debate that remains gendered-neutral. One of the main objective of this project supported is to make migrant women's organisations heard at the European level. More information: Amandine Bach, bach@womenlobby.org or http://www.womenlobby.org/site/1abstract.asp?DocID=2391&v1ID=&RevID=&namePage=&pageParent=&DocID_sousmenu=&parentCat=534
- The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) has published a diary for 2009 with the Convention of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) as its central theme. Written in both Greek and English, the diary includes information on women's rights and discrimination, simplified summaries of all the CEDAW Articles, a weekly calendar as well as a glossary of terms used in the Convention. View the full diary in PDF format at <http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/?p=1409> or request a hard copy by emailing info@medinstgenderstudies.org.
- The BMC Public Health Journal has recently published two articles by Hans Wolff et al, on the issue of sexual and reproductive health for undocumented migrants in Switzerland following research undertaken in Geneva's University Hospital. The first paper, '*Undocumented migrants lack access to pregnancy care and prevention*' finds that undocumented migrants have more unintended pregnancies and delayed prenatal care, use fewer preventive measures and are exposed to more violence during pregnancy. Their lack of a legal residency permit suggests a particular vulnerability for pregnant women. This study underscores the need for better access to prenatal care and routine screening for violence exposure during pregnancy for undocumented migrants and recommends that health care systems provide language- and culturally-appropriate education on contraception, family planning and cervical cancer screening. The second paper addresses '*Chlamydia trachomatis prevalence in undocumented migrants undergoing voluntary termination of pregnancy*' reporting that undocumented pregnant migrants showed higher prevalence rates of genital CTI indicating the need to design programs providing better access to treatment and education and to increase migrants' awareness of the importance of contraception and transmission of STI. Available online at: <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2323378> and <http://www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov/articlerender.fcgi?artid=2605464>

6. Upcoming Events

- The final conference of the Undocumented Worker Transitions (UWT) project will take place on 4 February in London on 'The pathways and experiences of undocumented migrants'. The UWT will show the situation of undocumented migrants in seven EU Member States (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Denmark, Italy, Spain and the United Kingdom) focusing on the reasons why migrants seek work in Europe as well as on working conditions, both regular and irregular ones.
<http://www.undocumentedmigrants.eu/>
- On 9 February 2009, Citizen Organising Foundation, an alliance of faith, voluntary, community and labour organisations across the UK and Ireland, will present the campaign "*Strangers into Citizens*" which proposes that undocumented immigrants who have been living in the UK for four or more years should be admitted to a two-year pathway to full legal rights ('temporary leave to remain'), during which they work legally and can demonstrate their full contribution to the UK economy and cultural life. <http://www.strangersintocitizens.org.uk/>
- Progress lawyers network, Dereac and l'AIJD (Association Internationale des Juristes Démocrates / International Association of Democratic Lawyers), with the support of FGTB and CSC will hold a conference on 6 March in Brussels entitled "Migration and proper work. Influence of European and international regulation on migrant workers status". The conference will focus on migrant workers' status and difficulties faced by undocumented migrants. <http://www.progresslaw.net>
- A lecture on foreigners detention (Vrijheidsontneming van Vreemdelingen) will be held on 21 March 2009 in Den Bosch, the Netherlands organized by Action by Christians for the Abolition of Torture (Actie van Christenen voor de Afschaffing van Martelen en Doodstraf, ACAT). Speakers include Dr. Anton van Kalmthout, member of the Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (CPT) and Bert van Horssen, a prison chaplain on foreigners detention boats. www.acatnederland.nl
- The Second Part of the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum will take place from 18 to 20 May in Athens to continue discussion among policymakers and experts regarding managing migration and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies. At the first part of the Forum which was held in Vienna on 19-20 January 2009, participants discussed the benefits of migration for countries of origin and destination, intra- and inter-regional co-operation, managing migration channels and the issue of irregular migration. <http://www.osce.org/item/35942.html>

7. Publications

- The Belgian Centre for Equal Opportunities and Opposition to Racism (CEOOR) has published a study entitled "Before & After", about the socio-economical status of people who were regularized on the basis of the Regularization Act of 22 December 1999. The study compares migrants' situations before, during and after the procedure, with a view to informing the authorities about the nature and scope of migration flows. Report available for download at: www.diversiteit.be; www.diversite.be, Centrum voor Sociaal Beleid Herman Deleeck, <http://www.ulb.ac.be/socio/germe>
- GADEM (Le Groupe antiraciste d'accompagnement et de défense des étrangers et migrants) has published a study on migrants' conditions in Morocco and with particular focus on the conditions of migrants coming from Sub Saharan Africa. GADEM aimed to provide for information about law and judicial procedures on regular and irregular immigration to prevent human rights violations. Source: <http://www.cimade.org/nouvelles/1390-MAROC---Le-Gadem-publie-une-etude-sur-le-cadre-juridique-relatif-a-la-condition-des-etrangers>

- The UK Refugee Council has published a report on “Remote controls: how UK border controls are endangering the lives of refugees” about the impact of the UK’s border controls on migrants. The Council was concerned that UK border controls aimed at preventing irregular migration were preventing migrants from escaping persecution and find protection as well. Available online at:

<http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/Resources/Refugee%20Council/downloads/researchreports/Remote%20Controls.pdf>

8. PICUM News

Events

- Within the framework of the EU “CLANDESTINO” project and in collaboration with Migrants’ Rights Network (MRN) and the ESRC Centre on Migration, Policy and Society (COMPAS), PICUM will hold a European workshop on “Understanding Irregular Migration in Northern Europe” in London on 27 March 2009. The event aims to bring together NGOs, local authorities, policy makers, researchers, journalists and other professionals to compare approaches on similar issues and exchange opinions on possible policy alternatives concerning some Northern European countries that share common features as regards irregular migration. More information and a registration form are available at www.picum.org.
- PICUM’s Annual General Assembly will be held in London this year, on Saturday, 28 March 2009, following the “Clandestino” conference. Information will be sent to PICUM members separately by email.

Publications by PICUM staff, board and members

- “What challenges and policy responses concerning the social rights of undocumented migrants?” by Michele LeVoy, PICUM director, in Network News: The Newsletter of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), Nr 127, July-September 2008. www.eapn.eu
- “An analysis of the employers’ sanctions directive,” by Sabine Craenen, PICUM member and Coordinator, OR.C.A., and Michele LeVoy, PICUM director, in *EU migration policy: Is it fair?* ENARgy, August 2008. www.enar-eu.org

EU Advocacy

- A bad (international) day for migrants as EU discusses employers’ sanctions Directive? 17 December 2008, by ENAR (European Network Against Racism), PICUM, European Women’s Lobby (EWL) and Solidar.
 “As the world celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and International Migrants’ Day, ENAR, EWL, PICUM and Solidar urge MEPs and EU member states to follow a human rights-based approach in taking forward the proposed Directive providing for sanctions against employers of irregular third country nationals. This seems like a very opportune time for EU decision makers to show their commitment to human rights for all, including irregular migrant workers.” Full text available at www.picum.org.

PICUM with consultative status

By the end of 2008, PICUM had confirmation that its applications to have consultative status as an NGO were approved both by the Council of Europe, and by the Civil Society Platform for the Rights of the Child (an initiative of the European Commission). Through this special status, PICUM hopes to work

closely with its members in the coming years to advocate for the human rights of undocumented migrants.

External representation

In recent months, PICUM staff, board and members spoke and participated in the following events:

- **Consultation on Compensation for Trafficked Persons**, meeting organized by La Strada International, Anti Slavery International and the Global Alliance against Traffic in Women, 3-5 September 2008, Berlin, Germany. PICUM board member George Joseph represented PICUM at this meeting which was held to set a basis for a European Coalition on Compensation for Trafficked Persons.
- **Human Rights Perspectives in the Global Forum on Migration and Development**, panel discussion organized by the Geneva office of the Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation (FES) and Migrants Rights International, 16 September 2008, Geneva. PICUM director Michele LeVoy discussed how the issues of fair working conditions and access to health care for undocumented migrants, regularization, and the situation of undocumented children in countries of destination were viewed by civil society and governmental participants at the first Global Forum on Migration and Development held in Brussels, July 2007.
- **European Governance of Migration: The Political Management of Mobility, Economy & Security**, 17-19 September 2008, Berlin, organized by the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. George Joseph, PICUM board member, made a presentation in the round table entitled "Protecting the Vulnerable: Refugees, Asylum & Resettlement and Undocumented in the European Union."
- **Second partners' meeting of the "Clandestino" project**, 17-19 September, Hamburg, Germany. PICUM director Michele LeVoy, PICUM chair Don Flynn, and PICUM project officer Martina Fava participated in the meeting. The academic partners focused on theoretical and empirical features (e.g. the set up of a new database to count the number of irregular migrants in Europe, evaluation and classification of estimates, comparative analysis amongst the countries involved, publication plans) and PICUM, as the NGO partner, discussed its plans for dissemination activities at the local and regional levels through fieldtrips and individual meetings with a wide range of stakeholders in the 12 selected EU member states of the project.
- **International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights**, 25-26 September 2008, Manila, Philippines, organized by UNIFEM, ILO, UNICEF, MFA, NCRFW, WAGI and LGF. PICUM director Michele LeVoy made a presentation on the human rights of undocumented migrants in Europe in the plenary on "Regional Discussions". She was also a chair for the workshop on "Gender Issues in Formal and Informal Recruitment Processes and Working Conditions" and a speaker in the workshop on "Improving Health Services and Social Protection for Women Migrant Workers."
- **First meeting of the Fundamental Rights Platform**, 7-8 October 2008, Vienna. PICUM director Michele LeVoy participated in this meeting in which civil society participants discussed the Fundamental Rights Agency (FRA)'s strategic objectives and work plans in the coming years, and the role of the platform in relation to the agency. Asylum, immigration and integration of migrants are one of nine priority areas for the agency from 2007-2012.
- **Promoting decent work in the EU, Seminar of the PES Group in the Committee of the Regions (CoR)**, 7 October 2008, Brussels. The seminar explored the contribution of local and

regional authorities towards ensuring decent work and fair wages in the EU and brought together PES Group members of the CoR, European and international labour organisations, and NGOs. PICUM member Sabine Craenen and coordinator of OR.C.A. (Organization for Undocumented Workers) made a presentation about undocumented workers in Europe.

- **OSCE/ODIHR Annual Human Dimension Implementation Conference, Sessions entitled “Focus on identification, assistance, and access to justice for all the victims of trafficking,”** 8 October, Warsaw, Poland. PICUM board member Reyes Castillo participated in the working session and on a side event organized by the ODIHR on compensation for people who have been trafficked.
- **Meeting of the Migration and Asylum Working Group of the Euromediterranean Human Rights Network (EMHRN),** 10-12 October 2008, Rabat, Morocco. PICUM board member Reyes Castillo participated in this meeting which aimed to enhance networking and facilitate future cooperation between NGOs in the Euromed region on migration and asylum issues, and to launch a "Migration and Asylum Alert Mission" (MIAAMI).
- **7th European Round Table on Poverty and Social Exclusion. Active inclusion: an opportunity for all,** 15-16 October 2008, Marseille, France. PICUM director Michele LeVoy represented PICUM's concerns about undocumented migrants being invisible in social inclusion measures and advocated that access to health care should not be determined by immigration status.
- **Citizens' summit on migration : Bridges, not walls (« Sommet Citoyen sur les migrations : Des ponts pas de murs »),** 17 October 2008, Paris. PICUM Programme Officer Eve Geddie represented PICUM at this Second Euro-African non-governmental conference on migration and development, attending workshops on 'Selective migration policy: which impact on migrants' rights in host countries' and 'Migrant Women'. PICUM signed on to the call for this citizen's summit on migration and joined the "Bridges not walls" coalition to express joint concern about the treatment given to migration flows, which is essentially focused on security and is responsible for thousands of deaths. More information on this initiative is available at <http://www.despontspasdesmurs.org/>
- **Quality of health services in a pluri-cultural context,** Emilia Romagna, Italy, 9 October 2008, organized by the Regional Health Authority of Emilia-Romagna. PICUM Programme Officer Eve Geddie made a presentation entitled 'Undocumented Migrants' Access to Health Care in Europe.' The meeting highlighted the barriers facing undocumented migrants when trying to access healthcare with specific emphasis on Italy and was attended by over 200 healthcare professionals, medical students as well as those working in NGOs.
- **First Preparatory Conference for the 17th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum,** "Migration management and its linkages with economic, social and environmental policies to the benefit of stability and security in the OSCE region", Prague, 16-17 October 2008. PICUM chair Don Flynn represented the organization.
- **People's Global Action (PGA) on Migration, Development and Human Rights,** 22-30 October, Manila, Philippines. The PGA is an alternative movement by migrants, trade unions, development advocates and others to pressure governments and international bodies to respect migrants' rights and was held parallel to the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development (see item below). PICUM contributed in the following workshops:
 - **Workshop and Policy Debate on the Protection of Migrant Children and Children Left Behind,** 24 October 2008, organized by Save the Children-UK, Unicef Philippines, ILO/IPEC

and ASIA Acts. PICUM board member Edel Mc Ginley spoke about undocumented children in Europe.

- **The Triangular Model of Managed Migration, Trade and Development, and Repressive Enforcement Policies: An emerging global paradigm**, 26 October 2008, organized by MFA, MRI, NNIRR, PICUM, HAS. PICUM director Michele LeVoy spoke about undocumented migrants in Europe.
- **Undocumented Migrant Workers, Challenges and responses in protecting their rights**, 26 October 2008, workshop organized by BWI, GAATW, MFA, FIDH & FES. PICUM board member Edel Mc Ginley spoke about undocumented workers in Europe and in Ireland.
- **Trafficking / Reception and Care of Unaccompanied Minors**, 23-24 October 2008, seminar organized by the University of Ghent. PICUM program officer Luca Bicocchi presented some findings of PICUM's research on undocumented children, with a particular focus on access to health care for undocumented children.
- **Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), Civil Society Days. Protecting and Empowering Migrants for Development**, 27-28 October 2008, Manila, Philippines, organized by the Ayala Foundation. PICUM director Michele LeVoy was the rapporteur for the workshop on "Managing Migration and Minimizing the Negative Impacts of Irregular Migration." Edel Mc Ginley, PICUM board member from Migrants Rights Center Ireland, also participated in the civil society days.
- **13th International Metropolis Conference: Mobility, Integration and Development in a Globalised World**, 27-31 October 2008, Bonn, Germany. PICUM chair Don Flynn spoke at the workshop entitled "The Future of Regularisations in Europe," held on 30 October 2008 and organized by the International Centre for Migration Policy Development (ICMPD).
- **Gesundheit in der Illegalität ("Health in Illegality")**, Auswandererhaus Bremerhaven, 7-8 November 2008, Bremerhaven, Germany, organized by ZERP - University Bremen - Center for European Law Policy. PICUM member Gisela Penteker made a presentation on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe. All of the presentations will be published in book format.
- **Shelter in Europe? 25 Years of Church Asylum in Germany**, Berlin, 7 November 2008, organized by Asyl in der Kirche. PICUM board member Didier Vanderslycke made a presentation entitled "Under the shadows of your wings" at this meeting to celebrate a 25-year history of churches in Germany offering refuge to undocumented migrants. PICUM member Rian Ederveen, Stichting Los, Netherlands, was also one of the speakers.
- **ENAR Policy Seminar "Framing a positive approach to migration"**, 6-7 November, Paris, organized by the European Network Against Racism (ENAR). PICUM director Michele LeVoy made a presentation in the session on human rights and migration. The seminar was attended by ENAR sections from throughout Europe.
- **Joint associative meeting for members of Médecins sans Frontières (MSF) sections in the OCB-group (MSF-Belgium, Denmark, Hong Kong, Italy, Luxemburg, Norway and Sweden)**, 7-8 November 2008. The meeting was attended by some 300 persons (Heads of Mission and Medical Coordinators, national and headquarters staff, board members and individual members). PICUM

director Michele LeVoy made a presentation in the panel entitled “What involvement should or could MSF have with migrants?”

- **Zugang zur Gesundheitsversorgung von Menschen ohne Aufenthaltsstatus in Deutschland: Möglichkeiten, Grenzen und Lösungsansätze (“Access to health care for people without residence status in Germany: possibilities, limitations and approaches”)**, 19 November 2008, Munich, Germany, organized by Doctors of the World, Café 104, and IPPNW. In addition to her presentation about her organization’s work in Munich, Margret Spohn, Stelle fuer interkulturelle Arbeit Muenchen, who was a member of PICUM’s previous EU project on undocumented migrants’ access to health care, briefly presented some of the findings of PICUM’s research on this issue.
- **International Trade Union Conference on Combating Forced Labor and Human Trafficking**, 21-23 November 2008, Athens, organized by the ITUC, ETUC and GSEE. At this conference, which was organized on the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Greek General Confederation of Labor, PICUM director Michele LeVoy made a presentation in the panel entitled “Trade unions, NGOs and civil society cooperate to fight forced labor and human trafficking.”
- **Seminar for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Europe and Beyond**, 21 November 2008, organized by the International Centre for Reproductive Health, Ghent, Belgium. PICUM Programme Officer Eve Geddie gave a presentation on ‘Access to Health Care for Undocumented Women in Europe’ with specific emphasis on sexual and reproductive health. The event provided a forum for a wide range of experts to present on the sexual and reproductive health of migrants in the EU and also served as the launch of the ICRH network (EN-HERA). More information on this network is available at: <http://www.icrh.org/>
- **ILO-ICMPD project “Elimination of Human Trafficking from Moldova and Ukraine through labour based measures”, Regional Workshop to prepare a network of Trade Union Focal Points in source and destination countries**, 25–26 November 2008, Kiev, Ukraine. PICUM member Sabine Craenen and chair of PICUM’s working group on fair working conditions made a presentation entitled “Trade Union and NGO Cooperation in the Case of Exploitation of Migrant Workers.”
- **Gesundheitliche Versorgung von Menschen ohne Papiere: Kongress Armut und Gesundheit 2008, Forum Migration. 7. Interdisziplinäres Migrations-Symposium der Alice Salomon Hochschule Berlin und der Charité-Frauenklinik (Health care for undocumented migrants: Conference on poverty and health 2008, Forum Migration. 7th interdisciplinary migration symposium of the Alice Salomon University of Applied Sciences Berlin and the Charité women’s ward)**, 5-6 December 2008, Berlin. Gisela Penteker, PICUM member from Flüchtlingsrat Niedersachsen, Ottendorf, Germany, made a presentation on access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe. The proceedings from this workshop will be published in book format.
- **Shaping European Policies on Immigration, Borders and Asylum: Giving a Voice to Civil Society**, 9-10 December 2008, Brussels, organized by the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPs), ENAR, and the European Economic and Social Committee. PICUM director Michele LeVoy made a presentation on the employers sanctions directive in the roundtable on irregular migration.

- **Third European Forum on the Rights of the Child**, 9 December 2008, Brussels, organized by the European Commission. PICUM program officer Luca Bicocchi attended the forum and advocated for the rights of undocumented children.
- **AMAC Project “Assisting Migrants and Communities: Analysis of Social Determinants of Health and Health Inequalities,” 2nd Thematic Workshop**, 16-17 December 2008, Brussels, organized by the International Organization for Migration (IOM). PICUM Program Officer Eve Geddie participated in the workshop and Director Michele LeVoy gave an overview of the “Clandestino” project in the panel on “Perspectives for Health Care for Undocumented Migrants.”
- **II Jornadas de Inmigración, Salud y Voluntariado (“Symposium on Immigration, Healthcare and Voluntary Work”)**, 18 December 2008, Algeciras (Cádiz), Spain, organized by the Servicio Andaluz de Salud, Consejería de Salud. PICUM board member Reyes Castillo made a presentation on undocumented migrants’ access to health care in Europe.
- **Promoting Social Inclusion of All – the Case of Undocumented Migrants**, 18 December 2008, Brussels, organized by Caritas Europa. PICUM Director Michele LeVoy made a presentation entitled “The European Union and the promotion of social inclusion for all – what place for undocumented migrants?” at this seminar which was attended by Caritas organizations from throughout Europe.
- **“Bridges, not walls” Steering Committee and the CRID Working Group members**, 5 January 2009 at CRID, Paris. Eve Geddie, PICUM Programme Officer, attended this steering committee meeting to provide feedback on the Second Euro-African non-governmental conference held in October and share views and suggestions on the future of the “Bridges, not walls!” initiative.
- **Meeting of the partners of the Médecins du Monde “Averroès” European project**, 28-30 January 2009, Paris. PICUM Director Michele LeVoy made a presentation about undocumented migrants in Europe at this meeting of the Averroès project, which was attended by Medecins du Monde sections throughout Europe. One of the Averroès’ project aims is to improve access to health care for undocumented migrants in Europe.
- **Samahan Forum and film session on OFWs (Overseas Filipino Workers)**, 1 February 2009, Brussels, Belgium. Eve Geddie, PICUM Programme Officer, participated on the panel discussion along with other NGOs and a representative from the Filipino consulate following the viewing of the film ‘Ina...Anak, Pamilya’ which raised the effects of family separation caused by the emigration of Filipino parents to find work abroad. PICUM noted the vulnerable situation of undocumented migrants in Europe and gave information on its new gender strategy which would seek to address the specific situation of undocumented migrant women.